

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9578

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 8344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, ID, SN, RP, ASEAN

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO  
SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF EC BRUSSELS 7600

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH CASPARI, THE EC COMMISSION  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE ASKED FOR  
HIS IMPRESSIONS OF COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S RECENT VISIT  
TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. CASPARI INDICATED THAT THE PRINCIPAL THEME  
WHICH HAD EMERGED IN ORTOLI'S TRIP WAS THE CONCERN EXPRESSED  
ON ALL SIDES ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF HANOI AS THE LEADING POWER  
IN THE AREA. THIS CONCERN WAS PARTICULARLY MARKED IN SINGAPORE  
AND INDONESIA WHERE HE SAID BOTH LEE AND SUHARTO WERE PRE-  
OCCUPIED BY SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT THE VIETNAMESE MIGHT DO WITH  
THE VAST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL AND WEAPONS THEY HAD ACCUMULATED  
AT THE END OF THE WAR. THEIR PARTICULAR CONCERN WAS THE  
POSSIBILITY THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD EMBARK ON A POLICY OF  
SUPPLYING LOCAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION WITH  
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WEAPONS WHICH WOULD GIVE RISE TO A NEW WAVE OF INSURGENCY.

IN INDONESIA THE EC DELEGATION WAS TOLD THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO COUNTERACT THE POTENTIAL THREAT POSED BY THE EMERGENCE OF VIETNAM BY EMPHASIZING NATIONALISM, AVOIDING CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH ANY OF THE BIG POWERS AND BY ATTEMPTING TO DIVERSIFY ITS RELATIONSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING CLOSER TIES WITH WESTERN EUROPE.

2. CASPARI SAID THAT IN INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND (WHICH CASPARI VISITED AFTER ORTOLI RETURNED TO BRUSSELS), THERE SEEMED TO BE AGREEMENT THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE ABSORBED WITH INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSOLIDATION FOR A PERIOD OF TIME TO THE EXCLUSION OF SUBSTANTIAL EXTERNAL ADVENTURES. IN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA THIS "PERIOD OF GRACE" WAS GENERALLY ESTIMATED AT FIVE YEARS, WHEREAS THE THAIS SEEMED TO THINK IN TERMS OF A DECADE. BOTH LEE AND SUHARTO EVIDENCED CONCERN ABOUT VIETNAMESE DESIGNS ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA, WHEREAS IN BANGKOK CASPARI FOUND VIEWPOINTS "MORE NUANCED" WITH THE FEELING THAT TRADITIONAL NATIONAL DIFFERENCES WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE VIETNAMESE TO EXERCISE TRULY EFFECTIVE HEGEMONY. CASPARI MADE NO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF ORTOLI'S VISIT TO MANILA, OTHER THAN TO REMARK ON THE POWERFUL PERSONALITY AND POSITION WHICH MRS MARCOS APPEARED TO HAVE ASSUMED THERE.

3. CASPARI, INCIDENTALLY, PRAISED PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S CONDUCT OF THIS MISSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SAID THAT IN ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HE TOOK A STRONG STAND AGAINST INDEXATION. GREENWALD

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